



The Peppertree POST

2017 Volume 1

What do we do? Rescue dogs of good temperament who need new homes • Cooperate with and assist other rescues, shelters, and animal control • Educate the public about how to obtain a companion animal.

Our Gentleman Quinn

by Teresa Jurdy

Peppertree collaborates with a wide network of rescue groups all over New York State, and in 2016 we learned of a golden-doodle breeder who was closing his doors. The female golden retrievers he had used were safe through breed rescue, but the stud dog, a standard poodle, had nowhere to go and would have faced euthanasia. We couldn't leave him behind. That dog, Quinn, was 11 years old and had never known much more than kennel life. As soon as we met him, it was clear Peppertree had made the right decision to commit to him. Quinn was a complete gentleman, subdued and sweet in demeanor.

The first order of business was to get him cleaned up at the groomer's, as his coat was very long, matted and filthy. Soon a handsome apricot poodle emerged. The next step was to have Quinn neutered and do a senior blood panel to make sure all was well. We also had his teeth cleaned, and it turned out he needed several extractions before receiving a clean bill of health.



With his body taken care of, it was time to address his emotional well-being, and that meant finding Quinn a foster home where he could recover from surgery and begin to relax and find his footing as a regular dog now living in a home rather than a concrete pen. Stairs and slippery wood laminate flooring were new and scary obstacles to learn about and master. Getting along with other dogs comes naturally to Quinn, and he found comfort in being among other dogs in both his first and second foster homes.

Peppertree is lucky to have several foster homes that give their hearts and time to senior dogs in need of a temporary home, and also homes that enjoy working with shy dogs. Quinn needed both, and soon started to blossom.



Standard poodles are a rare sight in most dog rescue programs, and of course handsome Quinn had several families that applied to adopt him once he was settled enough to make yet another change in his life. He was adopted not once, but twice, and returned both times. Both the homes were wonderful and worked hard to make him a part of their family but it became obvious that he was too stressed without the security of other calm canine companions, and so he was returned to Peppertree, where the foster home where he has always been content and well-adjusted will be his final home. Quinn spends his days with his best buddy, a 12-year-old American bulldog and his new little sister an 11-year-old boxer mix. His family adores him, and he continues to blossom and gain life experience and confidence, as being a part of a loving home brings him the peace to be himself.



WAGS McGEE and CHRISTOPHER

by Pat Treiber and Joanne Roscoe



Wags McGee and Christopher are two purebred chihuahuas who came to us last year because their owner was unable to continue to care for them. While they were siblings, it was determined that they were not so bonded that couldn't be separated. And so Christopher and Wags went to different foster homes.



Christopher, who at one time weighed a whopping 20 pounds, weighed only 7.6 pounds when he first arrived, having lost over 12 pounds due to untreated diabetes. Another side effect of this terrible disease was loss of vision due to cataracts that had developed. Poor Christopher was

in pretty bad shape when he came to Peppertree, and the vet wasn't sure he would make it.

Christopher was put on insulin soon after arrival. Because the diabetes had gone untreated for so long, it was difficult to keep the glucose levels under control. Christopher spent many days at the vet getting his levels checked, and making friends with all the staff. When he arrived for a checkup, the staff always made a great fuss over him.

Through all his health issues, Christopher continued to be a happy little fellow. He put on a bit of weight and is now enjoying good health and following a proper diet. He managed to get to an ideal weight of 9.5 pounds.

Christopher found a wonderful home with a Latham mom and her two daughters. He is a serious snuggler, and has found himself in heaven with his ladies to fuss over him.



Wags McGee was an obese 18 pounds when he first came to us, but he had health issues that were different from the ones than the ones that beset his brother Christopher. After only a few days in his foster home, blood was seen in his urine. A trip to the vet

showed no infection, but it was suspected that he could have painful bladder stones. Despite this, he never showed anything other than his naturally cheerful temperament. Off Wags went for a visit with a specialist, whose diagnosis confirmed that Wags had bladder stones requiring surgery. The vet also recommended an anti-inflammatory for arthritis in his hind legs, and advised his foster that weight loss would help him to be more comfortable. Wags was put on a diet which consisted of smaller servings of food and treats, and added green beans for low-calorie bulk, along with short walks. And so the weight loss began.

Wags did well with the other dogs in his foster home and became very attached to his foster mom. Wags was very good with children although he was not a fan of adult men, and would bark even when he knew the person. He loved his little bed that he would curl up in every night, and found his crate comforting even with the door open.

Wags now lives with a Troy couple and their young daughter who dotes on him. They adore him and he is doing very well.

Saving these brothers epitomizes Peppertree's mission in so many ways: helping local and urgent dogs, despite some significant health issues, and then devoting our efforts to find them the ideal home, no matter how long it takes.



Peppertree Rescue, Inc.

(A 501 (c) (3) Not-for-Profit Charity)

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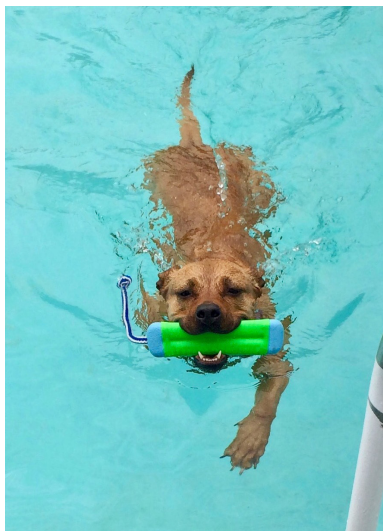
It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Gia!

By Susan Powell

Gia, now a five-year old pit bull mix, was returned to Peppertree in January 2015 when her owner died unexpectedly. She was happy girl but was very intense, had endless energy and was on a self-appointed mission to eliminate squirrels from the yard of her foster home. Keeping Gia busy and tiring her out was a challenge for her foster home.

When summer rolled around, Gia's foster mom realized that she absolutely loved swimming. That's when someone suggested that Gia should try dock diving...and a star was born. In the Big Air event, the dog runs and jumps off a 40 foot elevated diving platform into a pool, chasing and retrieving a floatable toy. The dog with the longest jump is deemed the winner. The great thing about the sport is that with just a few dog and handler skills, any person and any breed of dog and size of dog can participate. There is no greater sport for self-confident, water-loving dogs with a strong prey drive. Gia was made for the sport.

Gia's foster mom, Susan, drove her down to a Dock Diving 101 class at the K9 Aqua Sports Club, the home of Hudson Valley Dock Dogs. After she twice ran and jumped into the pool to swim and retrieve the toy, the trainers declared that she was a natural. Gia absolutely loved dock diving! From that point on, Gia and Susan made weekend trips to the club for private training sessions. After just a few sessions, Gia's trainer Toby said that she was ready for a competition.



Our dock diving diva strutted her stuff in three competitions and won a total of five medals. Gia's favorite event was Adirondack Woofstock, held in Chestertown last June. There she proudly sported a tie die scarf and her longest Big Air jump was 19'6". Gia was the darling of the event and spectators cheered extra loud for the spunky rescue dog who was still looking for her forever home.



She didn't have to wait much longer for the perfect home. In August, a young man named Gabe submitted an adoption application for Gia and it was a great match. Not only did he provide a terrific home for her, but it included an in-ground pool which was a big bonus for our champion dock diver. In her new home, Gia spends lots of time happily swimming with her new dad and his extended family and running around her huge backyard.



Gia's dock diving experience once again disproved misconceptions that people have about rescue dogs, and pit bulls in particular. Some people think that adopting these dogs means lots of trouble, and nothing could be further from the truth. Seeing a dog like Gia shine in her dock diving competitions proves that if you have a good relationship with any dog and give it an opportunity, they can go above and beyond. Happy trails to our Gia and her dad Gabe!



A Peppertree Success Story: China Rose

by Rich Rini

Cross a pit bull with a hippo and throw in a Winston Churchill face and you've got China Rose! At 10 years old, she had been surrendered to a local shelter by her owners. She was scared, traumatized and in very bad physical shape. However, the shelter workers saw something special in the old girl, and knowing the slim chances of adoption from the shelter they called Peppertree for help. The Peppertree volunteers also saw something special hiding behind the frightened exterior of China Rose, as she desperately tried to hold things together in this new and strange environment. Peppertree could help, and would help.



Long time Peppertree volunteer and foster mom Pat Treiber agreed to take China in to her home. Pat had fostered many dogs for Peppertree over the years but had never seen one as “shut down” as this one. As Pat tells it, “When she got to my house she went from the back door to farthest spot she could go and stayed there, right by the front door. She didn't eat, drink or move from that point. It took her 4 days to come around and then it was a 180 degree turnaround. I became her best bud!”

Once China came out of her shell Pat found her to be a most wonderful dog. She was super sweet and loved to snuggle. Walks and car rides were loads of fun for her. She was calm and easy going, and had more facial expressions than you could count,

each one funnier than the next. Pat even toyed with the idea of adopting her herself, but Pat's resident dog Twix vetoed that idea.



China Rose was not without physical problems. Happy to say, she was spayed, but she had some skin issues, kennel cough and a case of hypothyroidism. There were several trips to the vet, but thanks to our grant from the Doris Day Animal

Foundation we were able to pay for all the care that China Rose needed. Once her health problems were resolved China attended classes and qualified for her Canine Good Citizen certificate. She was now really ready for adoption.



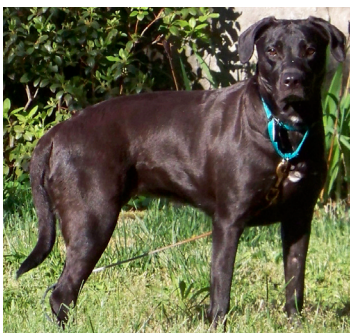
Jill L. had adopted from Peppertree before and when she was looking for a companion for her laid back pit bull, Mike, she checked the Peppertree website. China Rose caught her eye and Jill and Mike and Pat and China Rose had several successful “meet and greets.” Jill and Mike adopted China Rose.



Jill reports:

“China is much more energetic than I expected! She frequently hurls herself at Mike to initiate play. They play so hard that they can only sustain it for a few minutes. She's a very sweet dog who is totally bonded to both Mike and me. She is content to lie on the couch with me, snuggles with her head on my lap, although she often just plops herself on top of Mike or drapes herself over him. Mike is very mellow and doesn't mind. When I see her playing, or rolling and wriggling on her back, or lying peacefully, I think about how far she has come and am grateful that Pat and Peppertree trusted me with China Rose's care. She is a happy girl who has made an excellent addition to our family.”

Abby



Bosco



Dempsey



Natasha

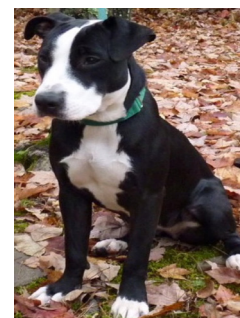


Sterling



Foster Spotlight

Beva

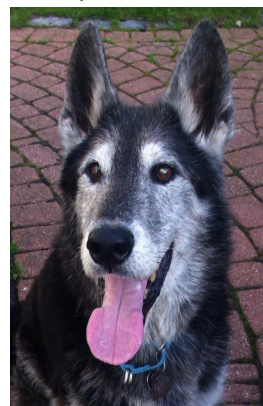


Pirate

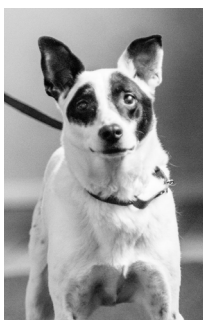


credit: Heather Bohm-Tallman Photography

Dewey



Evelyn



Clancy



Emmy Lou



Gia



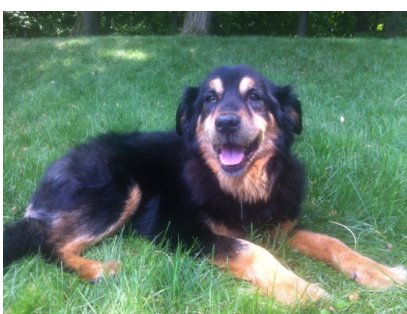
Marley



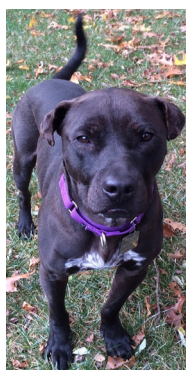
Linden



China



Tannon



Ray



Robinson



Fluff's Training Corner - Scent Work

By Alissa Mosier

Scent work was something I had wanted to try since adopting Fluff, who is always following her nose, and whose heritage contains a few hunting breeds. It was obvious she was a very scent-driven dog from day one, and incredibly food motivated. What attracted me to scent work was the independence of it – it is a dog relying on their instincts rather than the handler, and it requires the handler to follow the dog's cues more than the dog relying on your cues. It is a great activity for an independent-minded dog. Scent work can be done many ways but it basically involves a dog searching for a hidden something, a treat, an item, a scent – just following their nose. Another perk is that it is a low impact sport and something a senior dog can do without being worried about pulled muscles or sore joints. So when Shawna's Dogs in Glenmont announced that Good Choice Dog Training would be offering a Scent Work class we signed up immediately and could not wait for the first class.

We were greeted on our first day with boxes, boxes of all shapes and sizes. Fluff was a bit confused, but, when treats were added to those boxes I saw my 12-year old dog come to life. Suddenly her head was up, her ears were forward, and she was tugging on the leash to get that food! We started simply by letting the dog see the box the food went into, and telling them to "find it" or



"search". Once they got the idea we started to make it harder, taking them out of eyesight of the boxes, adding more boxes, and then taking the boxes away. All dogs have their calling, and scent work was clearly Fluff's. When it was her turn to "search" she was jumping and pulling on the leash, ready to go. Fluff would zip around the room, her nose to the ground, working, working, working, and then eating. Unlike our Therapy Dog prep class where she had to leave the food, Fluff got to find the food, eat it, and then get a reward for doing so. She was living the dream!

Scent work was definitely our favorite activity for a few reasons. First, Fluff just loved it, and I loved watching her have fun. It was an obedience free zone; there was no telling Fluff to wait, sit, down, stay – it was all her working on her instinct and I was just along for the ride. Second, it was easy to do at home. We didn't need special equipment or a lot of time – I just had to put a meatball in our special box and hide it somewhere. It was something we could do on a rainy day, a snowy day, a hot day or just a day when we were bored. And third, we had some amazing teachers. Teresa and Becky from Good Choice Dog Training were supportive, positive, knowledgeable and just plain fun.

Fluffy says:

*Many dogs are bred to do a job; some dogs herd, some are companions and some retrieve. We tried a lot of different things in our quest to find my "job" but I am glad Mom kept trying until we found my perfect fit. I liked doing everything we tried, but I **loved** scent work. If you think your dog needs a job but the job you try is not a match, keep trying. There is something out there that will work for both of you!*



Furry Fun Run
5K for People and Dogs

www.Peppertree.org

10th Annual Furry Fun Run
April 29th, 2017
The Warming Hut,
off Avenue of the Pines
Saratoga State Park

Registration starts at 8am,
Race starts at 9:15am



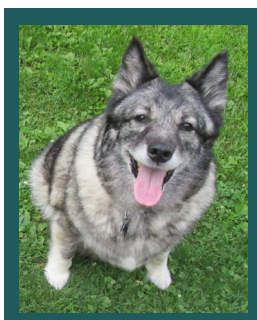
2016 Spaghetti Dinner

Our annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser was held in November at the Cohoes Senior Center and was the most successful to date! We made free and clear \$5,000.00---raffles and silent auction items were big this time around, as was the bake sale. The event takes a huge amount of volunteer time and effort but it's all worthwhile when the community comes out to support us so nicely.

Kudos to Peppertree's Fundraising Committee for its hard work on the event's 10th anniversary!

Yaddo in the kitchen

When you have a chubby senior pup with a thyroid issue, treats can be a problem, but as far as the Elkhound is concerned, the lack of treats is the problem. Finding tasty treats that won't pack on the pounds has been the goal, and it turns out sweet potato jerky leaves us both happy!



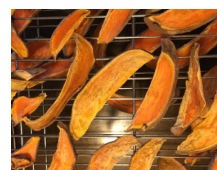
Please store these tasty treats in the fridge to keep them fresh. They only last about a week, though, so I like to keep them in the freezer and take them out a few at a time at a time.

And yes, they are a delicious snack for people as well, although for people I suggest sprinkling some sea salt on them, or if you are feeling really wild, some cinnamon and sugar!

Yaddo's Sweet Potato Jerky

Ingredients: 1 or 2 sweet potatoes

1. Preheat the oven to 250°.
2. Line a baking tray with parchment paper.
3. Wash and dry your sweet potatoes.
4. Cut the sweet potato in half, lay the flat side on the cutting board and cut into slices about $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick (for best results, no thinner than $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.)
5. Lay the slices out on the parchment paper and bake for 3 hours, turning over once after an hour and a half (or if you are really fidgety like me you can turn them every half hour without ruining them, depends on how patient you are).
6. Remove from tray and place on a cooling rack until cool, and watch the dogs gather.
7. If you want a crispier treat you can bake for another half hour or so, but watch for browning!





Peppertree Rescue, Inc.

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Heartfelt thanks

to all who contributed to our annual Holiday Appeal! We love receiving the pictures and notes of Peppertree alumni that often accompany the donations, and we mean it sincerely when we say we couldn't accomplish all we do without your steadfast support.

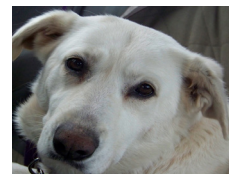


To subscribe to the Peppertree Post, visit www.peppertree.org/newsletters.

To correct an address or unsubscribe, please email rescue@peppertree.org with "Peppertree Post correction" in the subject.

Foster Homes Needed

Please . . . consider opening up your heart and home to one of our dogs or puppies for a few days or weeks to give them a chance at a new life.



We have to turn away many animals in need because of a shortage of foster homes.

Most of our dogs are fostered before being placed, so if you own a Peppertree dog, your pet probably benefitted from the kindness of one or multiple foster home volunteers.

Won't you show another dog or pup the same kindness?